

# The Visitor

## February 2023

**TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES**

Volume 106 Issue 2

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### *A Message from Marty Westermeyer*

Light comes; light goes, as the world revolves from day to night. Darkness and light are both a part of life, with times of regret and times of joyful anticipation. The Lenten season begins with humility and darkness on Ash Wednesday. It ends with glory and a dawning sun on Easter morning. The forty days of Lent do not include Sundays, which are seen traditionally as little celebrations of Easter. Each week, then, contains six days of penitence and thoughtful reflection about our lives and one day of celebrating the presence of the living Christ.

During Lent the coming of resurrection begins to dawn on us. Ash Wednesday, then, becomes a time before the dawn. Ashes symbolize repentance for ways in which our lives have been in darkness. There is an old adage, "The darkest hour comes right before the dawn," that is a good expression of that day's spirit. The darkness, though, is not gloominess, because we know that dawn is coming. With humbled hearts we admit our failings but set a course toward doing better.

We do not see the brightness of the resurrection until Easter, but all of Lent can be a time of brightening, discovering possibilities of hope and promise along the way.

At St. John's UCC, we will have opportunity to gather each Sunday during Lent to Worship and reflect on our relationship with God through Jesus. That journey begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2023 when we will gather for Worship at 12:00 pm. Imposition of Ashes will be offered and we will celebrate Communion on that day. We will celebrate Communion also on Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> as well, to begin the Season of Lent.

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*Please note:* throughout the Lenten Season we will not celebrate Communion until Maundy Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup> and then again on Easter Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, during our Resurrection Celebration. (NO Communion to be celebrated on either March 5 or April 2). In next month's Visitor, we will list the Holy Week schedule.

I look forward to being with you all through this Lenten Season. If we have not touched base, reconnected or never met, please approach me on Sunday or contact me by phone or email.

Continue to share the faith as we journey together - see you in church!

Blessings – Pastor Marty

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## **Membership Sunday**

There has been interest by some individuals about joining the congregation of St. John's UCC. If you or someone you are acquainted with might be one of these persons, please contact the Church Office or Pastor Marty. We could like to schedule a Member Sunday in the near future, but Pastor Marty wants to be sure to offer this opportunity to all. We hope to hear from you soon!

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## **Sunday Breakfast**

Join us on Sunday, February 12th in Fellowship Hall as the Rice Family prepares a delicious breakfast for all of our members and friends here at St. John's. A variety of breakfast items will be available beginning at 8:45 a.m. Join us for food, fun and fellowship on Sunday, February 12th.



**February 22, 2023**

**Service at noon with Imposition of Ashes and Communion**

**Senior Lunch Bunch**  
**Wednesday, February 8th**  
Noon-2:00pm  
Bring your own lunch  
Drinks and Dessert Provided



**JOIN US**  
for our  
fifth  
**LUNCH**

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**February Homebound Members of the Week**

We would like to celebrate and honor our homebound members of the week for the month of February. We appreciate and celebrate these individuals as our members of the week!

February 5th: Betty Hasse  
February 12th: Peggy Westlund  
February 19th: Bonnie Walter  
February 26th: Robert Hasse

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**February Birthdays**

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February 5th: Betty Lou Larmann & Carol Marksberry  
February 7th: Matthew Greenert  
February 10th: Carol Haas & Michael Sullivan  
February 12th: Roger Quinn  
February 16th: Kathy Spaulding  
February 17th: Tom Fuldner  
February 18th: Shirley Rice  
February 19th: Kelli Taylor & JoAnn Winstel  
February 20th: Jonathan Daniels, Kelsey Faller & Larry Spaulding  
February 23rd: Paul Bogen, Barry Bordenkircher & Robert Gray  
February 24th: Julie Ollier  
February 27th: Pamela Fuldner



St. John's would like to wish a happy birthday to our friends and family celebrating during the month of February!

## Prayer Ministry-February Blessings

Let us welcome February and take every chance to show love to all we meet.

February has arrived and Spring is on the way.

God is like oxygen. You can't see Him but you need Him to survive.

A smile can open a heart faster than a key can open a door. Smiles are free.

Always wear a smile because your smile is a reason for many others to smile.

You don't always get what you wish for, you get what you work for.

Smile often  
Think positively  
Give thanks  
Laugh loudly  
Love others  
Dream big.



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### Next Visitor Deadline: Wednesday, February 22, 2023

If you would like to submit an article or receive *The Visitor* via email please contact [StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org](mailto:StJohnsUCC@StJohnsUCCNewport.org).

You may also visit the "News" heading on our website and fill out the appropriate form.

A digital copy of *The Visitor* can be accessed at our website:  
[StJohnsUCCNewport.org](http://StJohnsUCCNewport.org) under our "News Section."



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### Church Office Closed

The Church office will be closed on the following days:

Monday, February 20, 2023: President's Day Observed



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### Quote of the Day

Step with care and great tact, and remember that Life's a Great Balancing Act.

-Dr. Seuss

## St. John's UCC Online Worship Service

You will be able to access the worship service by following the link below:

**St. John's UCC website** (This is the Sunday morning worship service-audio only)

<https://www.stjohnsuccnewport.org>



### Information Regarding Church Closings



As we get into the winter months, we wanted to let you know of our plan of communicating with you in case we need to close/delay any event due to inclement weather. We will communicate the following ways:

Church Website—a message will be posted on the home page

Email—an email through our listserv will be sent out with information. Please sign up for our email on the church website if you are not a part of our weekly email or contact the church office.

Local News Stations—we will send updates through Channel 5 (WLWT) and Fox 19 News (WXIX). We now also have access to Local 12 (WKRC) and will post updates there.

Please contact the church office if you have any additional questions.

